

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-47 (Previously canceled).

Claim ~~48~~<sup>1</sup>. (Original) A method of altering the flux of water across an epithelial cell presenting first and second spaced apart surfaces, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a peptide capable of forming a channel assembly for transport of anions through said epithelial cell, said peptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 18; and
- b. contacting said peptide with said first surface of said epithelial cell, and causing said peptide to alter the flux of water across said cell surface.

Claims 49-72 (Canceled).